

inputted to the signal line; and

a switching mechanism provided on said connector for stopping the smoothing function of said electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit when said connector is connected, but restoring the smoothing function of said electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit when said connector is disconnected,

wherein said switching mechanism includes

4/11 control
a movable member provided for sliding movement on a first one of connector elements of said connector for which said electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit is provided and a movable contact for being contacted with a grounding line to place said grounding line into a connected state,

a biasing member for biasing said movable member in a direction in which said movable contact is brought into contact with said grounding line, and

a pressing member provided on a second one of said connector elements for fitting connection to said first connector element for moving, when said first and second connector elements are connected to each other, said movable member against a biasing force of said biasing member to bring said movable contact provided on said movable member out of contact with said grounding line.--

Please add the following new claims:

--9. An electrostatic breakdown prevention apparatus, comprising:

an electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit for smoothing a signal in a signal line, said electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit having a capacitor switchably connected to ground; and

42 a connector having two connectable elements that connect said electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit to a signal line when said two elements are connected to each other and that disconnect said electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit from the signal line when said two elements are disconnected from each other,

a first of said two elements having a movable member that is urged to a first position in which said capacitor is connected to ground when said two elements are not connected to each other and a second of said two elements having a pressing member that moves said movable member to a second position in which said capacitor is not connected to ground when said two elements are connected.-

-

--10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said electrostatic breakdown preventing smoothing circuit further includes a resistor that is in the signal line when said